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KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS OMAHA BEACH, TACITUS ARRIVE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Tuesday, April 16, 2019) – Two of the likely top contenders for the Grade I, \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve – Arkansas Derby (GI) winner **Omaha Beach** and Wood Memorial victor **Tacitus** – arrived at Churchill Downs on Tuesday to begin their preparation for the “Run for the Roses.”

Omaha Beach, trained by Hall of Famer **Richard Mandella**, arrived at 3 p.m. (all times Eastern) Tuesday and is stabled in Barn 28. Owned by **Fox Hill Farms**, Omaha Beach became a top Kentucky Derby contender following his narrow victory over **Game Winner** in the March 16 Rebel Stakes (GII) and one-length score over **Improbable** in last Saturday’s Arkansas Derby (GI).

Arriving 11 hours prior to Omaha Beach was **Juddmonte Farms’** homebred Tacitus for Hall of Fame trainer **Bill Mott**. Tacitus, a son of top sire Tapit, joined the Kentucky Derby fray with a victory in the March 9 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) prior to his 1 ¼-length win in the April 6 Wood Memorial (GII).

Tacitus was reunited with his stablemate, and fellow Derby contender, **Country House** in Barn 19.

A total of seven Kentucky Derby contenders are on the grounds at Churchill Downs; the others are **By My Standards** (Barn 23), **Improbable** (Barn 33), **Long Range Toddy** (Barn 38) and **Plus Que Parfait** (Barn 9). **Anothertwistoffate** (Barn 31) is also at Churchill Downs but needs three defections to gain entry into the Derby field.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Possible Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I) competitor **Serengeti Empress** returned to the Churchill Downs work tab Tuesday with a half-mile breeze in :47 at 7:30 a.m. Trained by **Tom Amoss**, Serengeti Empress worked through opening splits of :12 and :23.60 before galloping out five furlongs in :59.60 and six furlongs in 1:13.20. Amoss stated Serengeti Empress would likely work next week before he and owner **Joel Politi** decide her next race plans. ... Fair Grounds Oaks runner-up **Liora** is expected to work Wednesday at 7:30 a.m., according to trainer **Wayne Catalano**. ... Louisiana Derby winner **By My Standards** is scheduled to continue his Thursday work pattern with a published breeze at 5:45 a.m., according to trainer **Bret Calhoun**. ... Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert’s** assistant **Jimmy Barnes** was tentatively scheduled to arrive in Louisville on Thursday. Baffert’s first of three Derby contenders, Arkansas Derby runner-up **Improbable**, arrived Monday. His other likely runners, 2-year-old Champion Game Winner and Santa Anita Derby (GI) winner **Roadster**, are stabled in California. ... Saturday will be first day of the special training period for Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks contenders. The 15-minute exclusive training window from 7:30-7:45 a.m. will be livestreamed on the Kentucky Derby social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) along with KentuckyDerby.com. The full one-hour broadcast of the works show is slated to begin Monday at 7 a.m.

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